

What is claimed is:

1. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

5       a) a message store for storing multimedia messages; and

      b) a plurality of data converters for converting  
          messages in one medium to messages in another  
          medium.

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2. A system according to claim 1 wherein said plurality  
      of data converters includes at least two selected from  
      the group consisting of a text to speech converter, a  
15       speech to text converter, and a fax to text converter.

3. A system according to claim 1 further comprising  
      means for linguistically based searching of multiple  
20       message types and for linguistically relating multiple  
      messages of different type.

4. A system according to claim 1 further comprising  
25       means for assigning a reference number to each message.

5. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

- a) a message store for storing multimedia messages; and
- 5  
b) means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

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6. A system according to claim 5 further comprising means for assigning a reference number to each message.

15 7. A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:

- a) a message store for storing multimedia messages;
- b) a plurality of data converters for converting messages in one medium to messages in another medium;
- 20  
c) means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type and
- 25  
d) means for assigning a reference number to each message.

8. A system according to claim 7 wherein said plurality of data converters includes at least two selected from the group consisting of a text to speech converter, a speech to text converter, and a fax to text converter.

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9. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox, comprising the steps of:

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a) storing messages of different types in a single mailbox; and

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b) automatically converting messages from one medium to another.

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10. A method according to claim 9 wherein said step of converting includes at least two selected from the group consisting of converting text to speech, converting speech to text, and converting fax to text.

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11. A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of linguistically searching multiple message types and linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

12. A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of assigning a reference number to each message.

5 13. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox, comprising the steps of:

a) storing messages of different types in a single mailbox; and

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b) linguistically searching multiple message types and linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

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14. A method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of assigning a reference number to each message.

15. A method for managing a multimedia mailbox,  
comprising the steps of:

5       a) storing messages of different types in a single  
          mailbox;

          b) automatically converting messages from one medium to  
          another;

10       c) linguistically searching multiple message types and  
          linguistically relating multiple messages of  
          different type; and

15       d) assigning a reference number to each message.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein said step of  
converting includes at least two selected from the group  
20       consisting of converting text to speech, converting  
          speech to text, and converting fax to text.